A General Epistle

TO

Friends of Truth and Righteousness in *England* and *Holland*, or elsewhere;

WITH

A Testimony against that Spirit that speaks much of Holiness and Peace, but leads back into the World and its Pollutions, where the Cross of Christ is denyed.

By *Humphry Wollrich.*

Written in the 11th. Moneth, *Anno* 1665.

FRIENDS,

The pure Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ all wait to feel, live and move in your mortal bodies, that so you may by and in it witness acceptance with the Lord, the Father and fountain from whom every good and pure gift doth proceed and spring. Oh witness him alive in you that was dead, that so ye from him may receive life, as he doth from the Father, that there may be none amongst you all that can be content to sit down in the form without the power, or in having a name to live, but as ye feel that innocent Lamb of God live through Righteousness, that hath been wounded and slain through transgression, out of which my souls desire and prayer to the Lord is, ye all may be preserved in the holy, pure, and undefiled life of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

THe Eternal God, Lord of Heaven and of Earth, put it in my heart to write to all Friends of truth and Righteouſneſs in general, that ye all watch and pray continually both in the day and in the night, with all your loynes girded up with the Girdle of Righteouſneſs ſtand, ſtand in faith out of all fainting or wearineſs, thoughts and unbelief, keeping the ward of the houſe of the Lord. O dear Friends! ye that have known the Virgins ſtate, unto whom nothing in this World hath been ſo dear and lovely as the ſavour of his good Oyntment to feel, who have rejoyced in nothing ſo much as to hear the beloved Bridegrooms voice: Oh, all watch and pray, in that the eternal Spirit is the Father of, that nothing may enter in to defile the Temple of the living God; for he delights to dwell and walk therein: Oh that pure ſpring of goodneſs all wait to feel living in your own hearts, that by the ſame ye may be made willing as the holy Apoſtle was, to die daily unto all viſible and fading things, ſo that ye may be but found in him, and be eye Witneſſes of the life and power of his riſing, by which we have the anſwer of a good Conſcience in his ſight, and whereby the Kingdom and the Glory, and the greatneſs thereof is revealed and brought to light that was with the Father before the World began, which fallen man (from Gods Image) hath loſt by trangreſſion, which the Lord by his holy Spirit is finiſhing and puting an end unto, and in the place thereof bringing in his Everlaſting Righteouſneſs, and where ſin and iniquity hath abounded, grace and mercy by Chriſt doth much more abound, to the glory and renown of his holy Name for evermore.

Oh dear Friends! hide not the Righteouſneſs of the Lord within your hearts, but love and follow him, that your Lights may ſhine out in the daily Croſs to ſelf, untill you come to witneſs the Baptiſm into his death, a death to all that can work without the Lord, or hunt before him, as *Nimrod* did, the beginning of whoſe Kingdom was *Babel*; or live (and feed) without the Eternal ſpring of goodneſs, in the World in the broad and wide way that leads to deſtruction; Oh let your Light ſhine out, and have always oyle in your ſelves to keep your Lamps burning, this is to the pure praiſe of him that hath called us to glory and vertue; and

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all dearly beloved Friends every where, keep out of the Worlds ſpirit and cumbrances in the ſpirit of truth, and then by the living ſpring in all ye do, will ye be guided, and thoſe things that to you have ſeemed hard and impoſſible by the feeling and guidance of the holy ſpirit will be made eaſie and pleaſant, as it is written, the Lord makes my way perfect, but the way of tranſgreſſours is hard; therefore out of thy ſelf live in the Lord, and take hold of his ſtrength, for in the Lord *Jehovah* is everlaſting ſtrength, in whom all the ſeed of *Iſrael* are juſtified, and do glory, to whom eternal glory and praiſes be given, for he is good, and his mercies endure for ever.

Oh the power of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, let none go from that, after fables, and hats, and outward things, as ſome have done, who have been convinced of the way of Righteouſneſs, but are turned into the World from the holy Commandement, and are become dry, having (little or) nothing left but ſwelling words of vanity, whoſe root I am moved of the Lord to judge; for this was not their work whom God raiſed at firſt amongſt us, but to turn peoples minds to the eternal light of the Word that ſhone in their own hearts, that by it their ſouls might be ſaved in the day of the Lord, who hath ſhewed me theſe men are not of *Paul*'s ſpirit, but of that which did him much miſchief in withſtanding his words; for he ſaid he would not do thoſe things while the world ſtood, whereby the weak ſhould be offended; but theſe men have ſaid to me ſome of them, what need we care who is offended, ſeeing we have freedom to do the thing, theſe things I do but touch upon, for my Righteouſneſs and my peace which makes me glad is of the Lord, and the other things not worth the mentioning in compariſon thereof, but as one ſeeing the miſchief it hath done in City and Country to many ſimple hearted people, beguiled with a ſhew held forth for the ſubſtance; I could not well be ſilent any longer. And further more this is my Teſtimony in this thing, as keeping on the Hat in Prayer before the Lord in the Congregation of his people is not lovely, it makes not for peace, neither is it of good report before all, but ſprang from that gainſaying root, that *Corah*, *Dathan*, and *Abiram* joyned unto, who with a greater out-cry of holineſs then *Moſes* and *Aaron*, had roſe up againſt the Lord and his anointed and hidden ones, as theſe men have done, whoſe mouths muſt be ſtopped, who ſubvert peoples

minds from the simplicity of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction if they repent not.

And all dear Children of the Light and of the day whom God hath blessed, and unto which all the promises are made, stand in the strength of the Lord, and feed there out of self and out of all unbelief in the feeling of the holy pure Spirit of the Lord in the goodness which will constrain thee to deny thy self, so in him thou may be but found, say not in thy heart it is unpossible to be holy and perfect in this life, that's the Infidel and the spirit which the worlds life is in; *David* sometime said, I shall one day fall by the hand of *Saul*; and doth his promise fail for evermore, hath the Lord forgotten to be gracious, and will he be favourable no more? but the cause of this he came to see was mistrust; therefore crys he, why art thou disquieted O my soul, and why art thou cast down within me; hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him for the health of his Countenance; and I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the Living, I say let not these things enter you, but keep down out of them all to the holy root, with whom all things are possible, as saith the holy Apostle; when I am weak then am I strong; and in the weakness is the power manifested; and we can do nothing as of our selves, but our sufficiency is of the Lord, and I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me; therefore good is it to live out of self in the true poverty before him, where self is humbled, crucified, and made of no reputation, quiet and still, but as the Lord moves and makes the way plain and perfect, so doth the rest remain and the inner gate of the Lords house open, and the pure spring issueth out, and the stream thereof makes glad the City of God, and then is the tree of life known and seen, (as *John* witnessed) whose Leaves are for the healing of the Nations: O blessed Nation, O happy people whose feet stand within thy Gate, O *Jerusalem*! thou City of the Living God, the Tabernacle which thou hast pitched to dwell in, with the Children of the eternal day. O my Soul bless thou the Lord for ever, in thy Church world without end, who hath caused thy glory to shine out of Sion clear as the Sun, fair as the Morning, and terrible as an Army with banners. Oh thy beautiful Garment, art thou cloathing thy Children withal, and with the fruit of this tree of life art thou feeding them withal, so that her Inhabitants may not say, I am sick, the

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people that dwell therein are forgiven their iniquities, so the eternal day of the Lord our God that hath enlightened the Earth from his holy Habitation be amongst you all, (in) and over you all, Amen, Lord Jesus Christ. *H. W.*

Let this be sent amongst Friends of Truth every where to be read amongst them, as truth in the inner parts shall move.

Another Epistle to Friends.

Dear Friends,

WHom the Lord have called, from amongst an evil and sinful Generation, of Men and Women whose words, ways and actions pleases not the Lord, but they are a grief unto his good spirit, that he hath given them a measure of, to instruct them, which they have often & yet do rebel against, for the which cause the Lord the righteous God of Heaven and Earth is revealing and making manifest his righteous judgments in the Earth, that them that shall be left may hear and fear the living and true God that made Heaven and Earth, and cease from the fear of Men whose breath is in their nostrils, for strong is the Lord which is now risen to judg the Whore; and to lay wait Zions Oppressors, for this is the message which I have received from the Lord, to declare and publish and proclaim in thy eares oh thou true *Israel*, that hast waited for the Lord the Bridegroom of thy Soul even as for the Morning, and desireth nothing so much as to be joyned, weded and married unto Christ the Souls rest, and that thou uprightly walkest, and patiently waitest upon God for power to do his will, oh you dear Children that labours to exercise a good conscience towards God and Men, and have no end to self, nor any carnal interest whatsoever, nor envy unto your Persecutors, nor nothing in your hearts but love and good will unto all Men upon the Earth, that desire nothing that is theirs, but are made willing to offer up freely unto the Lord all that you possess in this World, that so you may glorify God with your Soules and Bodies, so that you feel such a right spirit in you that you dare not offer a sacrifice unto

to the Lord at another Mans coſt, but all that you deſire of the Men of this World is, but liberty to worſhip the Lord your God, according as you are perſwaded by him, and as he hath and doth reveale and manifeſt and make known himſelf by Chriſt the Light unto you, which is the way to God, I ſay unto you that thus feeles the effectual work of the Lords precious truth in your inward parts, in the name and power of the Lord God be patient in continuing in well doing, and the Lord will give you the deſire of your hearts, for the Lord is riſen to comfort his afflicted people, and to conſider Zion whom no Man regards, and to deliver his true *Iſrael* from under all their *Egiptian* Task-maſters which oppreſſes them with their hard Taskes, and refuſes to let you worſhip the Lord your God, in that ſpirit that you have received of him, which the Lord hath in theſe latter days, according unto his promiſe poured forth upon you his ſons and daughters, that thus feels and knows your hearts and minds brought back unto God, and redeemed by his power unto him out of ſin and iniquity, that once ſeparated you from the Lord; ſo that the day and hour you now know and witneſs is come, that Chriſt ſpoke of to the Woman of *Samaria* ſhould come, that the true Worſhippers ſhould worſhip the Father in ſpirit and truth; which truth you that thus are obedient unto it, you witneſs Chriſts words fulfilled that he declared; that he declared if the truth ſhall make you free, then are you free indeed, which freedom through mercy, bleſſed be the Lord, many have obtained in this the day of his power, which you now witneſs is come that God promiſed by his Prophets ſhould come; in the which day you are made willing to do the will of God, although it be a croſs unto your own wills, and to the wills of them that are enemies unto the appearance of God in you his people in this the day of his power, and labours with all their ſtrength and might, wiſdom and policy, to ſuppreſs, Baniſh and exile this way of worſhipping of God in ſpirit, out of the Earth, or from amongſt men; that ſo they might ſet up their own traditions and carnal Ordinances, and beggerly out-ſide performances, which have not profited them that have been exerciſed therein. But oh you dear Children of the Lord that are redeemed unto God by his power, and are come beyond carnal Ordinances, & have ſhook off them ragged robes of your own Righteouſneſs and out-ſide performances, and are come to feel the power of the endleſs life,

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and the vertue of the tree of Life you now feel to nourish your souls up to Eternal life: I say unto you dear Brethren and Sisters, prise this unspeakable love and mercy of the Lord God unto your Souls, and walk humbly before the Lord, and feel his holy dread and pure fear in your hearts, that so you may be preserved, and never more to depart from the Lord; then shall you never more be terrified with the fear of man, whose breath is in his Nostrils, & is but as dust before the God of your lives; so in the Light dwell: and all Friends that make mention of the Lords precious Truth, and that names the Name of Christ keep out of iniquity, and all bow unto the appearance of Christ, in your inward parts, that so you may know him to take his Government in your hearts, that so you may witness your change wrought, and may walk in the Light, and know your passage from death to life; for Friends, this is the one thing most needful for all people upon the face of the Earth: But more especially you that have receiv'd the Lords pretious Truth, that you all wait upon the Lord with a true purpose of heart, for an enterance more abundantly into the Eternal Inheritance; that so you may come to know that life to be raised that shall never die, that by it your souls may live when this body shall be no more; and all Friends I warn and charge you all in the presence of Almighty God to take heed of negligence and carelesness, and of being indifferent in those things that doth concern your Everlasting peace and Salvation of your Souls, and all strive to lay hold on Eternal Life, and none to take up a rest below or short of the enjoyment of the peace of God which passes the understanding of all them that are out of it, which the Lord God is revealing & making known unto the simple hearted, that more desires the knowledge of his ways then any thing this world can afford: And all Friends labour to keep your minds within, unto Gods pretious truth, that so you may feel your bodies prepared, and your hearts enlarged to run the ways of Gods Commandements, and know the will that sanctifies in soul, body, and spirit, then shall your hearts rejoyce in God your Saviour, who is now saving his people, and delivering them from the fears of death, and the bondage of Corruption; So dear Friends mind your way to pass, which is Christ Jesus the Light, and look not out, nor wander, nor gaze abroad, for they that do, will stumble and be taken in the Enemy's snares; and none be discouraged at what hath or may befall

till the Lords own people in this day, in which the Lord is revealing his Righteous judgments in the Earth, by the which he is rebuking the wicked for their rebellion against the Truth, the light of Christ in their Consciences, and for their despiteful using and persecuting his people, which the Lord hath sent in his Name and Power to forewarn them of the evil that is now come upon them, but they have been like the deafe Adder which have altogether refused to hear the voice of the Charmer, charme he never so wisely, but the Lords love is unto his seed; and bodily exercise profits little, but Godliness is the only gain, so that it is certainly so, that when the wrath of the Lord is kindled, yea but a little, blessed are all they that puts their trust in him; for they that put their trust in the Lord, they are saved by his power; so that unto us to live is Christ, and to die is gain; so that the Righteous and the Godly receives gain by their death, but it is not so with them that forgets God and persecutes his People, for their reward will be according unto their work, and therefore for the wicked it shall go ill with them. But I say unto you dear people of the most high God, that are come unto the Righteous Principle of God in your own hearts, it shall go well with you that feel that life raised, that *Paul* blessed and praised the Lord for in his day, when he said, Oh Death where is thy sting? O Grave where is thy victory? the sting of Death is sin, and the strength of sin is the Law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ in the injoyment of the same life, my soul even praises and magnifies the Lord with all the redeemed whom the Lord has saved and delivered from the fears of death, and brought to know that love that is stronger then death. In the which powerful love and life I dearly salute you all that in truth desires peace with the Lord, unto whose power I commit you with my self.

Given forth in obedience unto the motion of the Lords Spirit in the universal love of God that I feel in my heart unto all that have received the Lords precious Truth, through which God is reconciling Man unto himself.

SAMUEL CATER.

The 19th. of the 8th. Month, 1665.

THE END.